

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ABF-01 /094 W

-----097472 080940Z /11

R 071450Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO: 1980-81 BUDGET: REAL PROGRAM GROWTH

REF: (A) GENEVA 08338 (B) ROME 10262

1. PARA 1-C OF REFTTEL A HAS REMINDED US THAT WE NEED, AAS WE
PROCEED WITH EXERCISE ON INDICATIVE PERCENTAGE OF REAL PROGRAM
GROWTH, TO ESTABLISH CLEARLY WITH OURSELVES, WITH THE GENEVA
GROUP, AND WITH FAO EXACTLY WHAT SHOULD BE BASE FROM WHICH REAL
PROGRAM GROWTH SHOULD BE CALCULATED.

2. IN CASE OF FAO, WE WOULD START WITH 1978-79 BUDGET LEVEL AND
SUBTRACT NON-RECURRING ITEMS (SUCH AS WORLD CONFERENCE ON
AGRARIAN REFORM). WE WOULD THEN ADD ON FOR ANNUALIZATION OF
CERTAIN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ROSE DURING 1978-79 TO A HIGHER
LEVEL AT END THAN AT BEGINNING
OF DUDGETARY PERIOD (MAINLY COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES' PROGRAM),
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WE WOULD THEN CONSIDER THIS AS BASE AND NEGOTIATE WITH GENEVA
GROUPOVER WHETHER ANY PERCENT OF GROWTH NEEDS TO BE ALLOWED
ABOVE THIS LEVEL IN REAL COST TERMS.

3. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, ANY REAL PROGRAM GROWTH IN ONE
SECTOR OF BUDGET WHICH WAS COUNTERBALANCED BY SAVINGS,
REDUCTIONS, OR DISCONTINUATION OF LOWER PRIORITY PROGRAMS

IN OTHER PARTS OF BUDGET WOULD NOT ADD UP TO ANY TOTAL
REAL PROGRAM GROWTH.

4. WHILE THIS CONCEPT DIFFERS FROM SAFBA APPROACH AND
FROM WHO APPROACH DESCRIBED REFTEL A, WE BELIEVE IT A MORE
USEFUL TECHNIQUE FOR LIMITING BUDGETARY GROWTH AND FORCING
CHOICES AS TO PRIORITIES THAN TECHNIQUE WHICH CONSIDERS
ALL REAL PROGRAM GROWTH AS ESSENTIALLY UNDESIRABLE REGARD-
LESS OF WHETHER OR NOT IT IS FUNDED FROM SAVINGS.

5. IF GENEVA GROUP CAN AGREE, STARTING FROM ABOVE-DESCRIBED
TYPE OF BASE, ON A LIMITING INDICATIVE REAL GROWTH PERCENTAGE
AND CONVEY IT EARLY AND FORCEFULLY TO DG, HE WILL BE MORE
APT TO SEEK CUTS IN LOWER PRIORITY PROGRAMS IF THIS WILL
HELP HIM FINANCE GROWTH IN HIGHER PRIORITY PROGRAMS. HE
WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO DO SO IF SUCH REDUCTIONS SIMPLY LOWER
THE BASE FROM WHICH WE WOULD THEN APPLY OUR REAL GROWTH
PERCENTAGE LIMIT.

6. WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT, GENEVA AND USUN
AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT APPROACH WE FOLLOW HERE CAN RELATE TO
EFFORTS ELSEWHERE. OUR APPROACH IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE FACT THAT
WE OURSELVES HERE CALLED FOR A PROGRAM GROWTH IN AT LEAST ONE
SECTOR, NUTRITION, NOT COUNTING THOSE MENTIONED IN
PROGRAM COMMITTEE GUIDANCE. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME10538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0537
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780686/aaaacvbk.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cfe5cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 8338, 78 ROME 10262
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2453670
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO: 1980-81 BUDGET: REAL PROGRAM GROWTH
TAGS: OCON, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbk://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cfe5cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014